Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009

Message Text

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 01 ACCRA 07671 01 OF 02 062152Z
ACTION AF-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01
INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02
SS-15 USIA-06 DHA-05 OMB-01 TRSE-00 /075 W
----------098386 062227Z /23
R 061431Z OCT 77
FM AMEMBASSY ACCRA
TO /SECSTATE WASHDC 458
INFO AMEMBASSY ABIDJAN
AMEMBASSY LAGOS
AMEMBASSY LOME
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY OUAGADOUGOU

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE SECTION 1 OF 2 ACCRA 7671

LONDON FOR SEITZ

EO 11652: NA
TAGS: PGOV, PINT, GH
SUBJ: REPORT RELEASED ON UNION GOVERNMENT

1. SUMMARY: AD HOC COMMITTEE ON UNION GOVERNMENT SUBMITTED A 239-PAGE REPORT TO HEAD OF STATE ACHEAMPONG OCT 4 CONTAINING PROPOSALS FOR A NEW FORM OF GEVERNMENT

FOR GHANA. KEY RECOMMENDATIONS INCLUDE A PRESIDENT VICE PRESIDENT AND UNICAMERAL PARLIAMENT, ALL TO BE CHOSEN THROUGH DIRECT GENERAL ELECTIONS WITHOUT POLITICAL PARTIES; A CABINET APPOINTED BY THE PRESIDENT; IMPORTANT ADVISORY POSITIONS FOR SENIOR MILITARY AND POLICE OFFICIALS; AN INDEPENDENT JUDICIARY; A CONSTITUTION ENSHRINING HUMAN RIGHTS; AND A FREE PRESS. OUR PRELIMINARY IMPRESSION IS THAT REPORT IS A SERIOUS EFFORT AT OUTLINING A UNIQUE FORM OF GOVERNMENT BUT
LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 02 ACCRA 07671 01 OF 02 062152Z

THAT IT LEAVES MANY IMPORTANT CONCEPTUAL AND ADMINISTRATIVE QUESTIONS UNANSWERED. END SUMMARY

2. ACCODING TO ACCOUNTS IN LOCAL PRESS OCT 5, THRUST OF REPORT IS THAT MOST OF THE 542 WITNESSES APPEARING BEFORE AD HOC COMMITTEE ON UNION GOVERNMENT AND MOST OF THE 866 MEMORANDA SUBMITTED TO IT CALLED FOR

Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009

Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009

ESTABLISHMENT OF A NATIONAL GOVERNMENT IN A NO-PARTY STATE, IN WHICH CANDIDATES FOR ELECTIONS WOULD PRESENT THEMSELVES ON THEIR OWN INDIVIDUAL MERITS, MUCH LIKE INDEPENDENT CANDIDATES UNDER A MULTI-PARTY SYSTEM. COMMITTEE DEFINED UNION GOVERNMENT AS "A FORM OF REPRESENTATIVE GOVERNMENT OF THE PEOPLE, HAVING AS ITS PHILOSOPHICAL FOUNDATION THE CONCEPTS OF NATIONAL UNITY AND CONSENSUS, AND SELECTING FUNCTIONARIES FROM ALL LEVELS AND SECTIONS OF THE COMMUNITY ON A BASIS OTHER THAN MEMBERSHIP IN AN INSTITUTIONALIZED POLITICAL PARTY OR PARTIES." UNDERLYING PURPOSE OF THIS NEW APPROACH TO NATIONAL POLITICS IS TO AVOID DIVISIVENESS, TRIBAL PASSIONS AND CORRUPTION ALLEGEDLY INHERENT IN PARTY POLITICS AS PRACTICED IN GHANA.

3. STRUCTURALLY, COMMITTEE SAID THAT GHANAIANS FAVORED AN EXECUTIVE PRESIDENCY WITH A VICE PRESIDENT AND UNICAMERAL PARLIAMENT, ALL TO BE ELECTED BY UNIVERSAL ADULT SUFFRAGE OF THOSE OVER 18 YEARS IN AGE. THE PRESIDENT WOULD APPOINT A CABINET, SUBJECT TO THE APPROVAL OF THE LEGISLATURE, FROM INDIVIDUALS OUTSIDE PARLIAMENT. COMMITTEE ALSO SUGGESTED A "COUNCIL OF STATE," WHICH WOULD INCLUDE PRESIDENT, VICE PRESIDENT, SPEAKER OF PARLIAMENT, CHIEF OF DEFENSE STAFF

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

INSPECTOR-GENERAL OF POLICE AND REPRESENTATIVES OF NATIONAL HOUSE OF CHIEFS. THIS GROUP WOULD BE ESSENTIALLY ADVISORY, WITH NO POWER TO ENACT OR VETO LEGISLATION, BUT IT COULD DELAY LEGISLATION FOR UP TO SIX MONTHS, MEMBERS OF PARLIAMENT WOULD BE ELECTED FOR FOUR YEAR TERMS AND COULD BE RECALLED FOR CORRUPTION OR FAILURE TO PARTICIPATE EFFECTIVELY IN PARLIAMENT OR LOCAL COUNCILS.

4. COMMITTEE CONCLUDED THAT MEMBERS OF ARMED FORCES AND POLICE SHOULD BE ABLE TO BECOME INVOLVED IN NEW GOVERNMENT WITHOUT HAVING TO FIRST RESIGN FROM THEIR PRESENT POSITIONS (AS SOME CRITICS OF ACHEAMPONG REGIME HAVE URGED). SPECIFICALLY, AS NOTED ABOVE, CHIEF OF DEFENSE STAFF AND INSPECTOR-GENERAL OF POLICE SHOULD BE MEMBERS OF COUNCIL OF STATE. IN ADDITION, A "FORCES ADVISORY COUNCIL" (ALONG LINES OF PRESENT MILITARY ADVISORY COUNCIL) AND A "NATIONAL SECURITY AND DEFENSE COUNCIL" (ON WHICH CHIEF OF DEFENSE STAFF AND INSPECTOR-GENERAL OF POLICE WOULD ALSO SERVE) WOULD BE ESTABLISHED, BUT THE FUNCTIONS OF THESE COUNCILS IS NOT YET CLEAR.

Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009

Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009

5. FIRST PRESIDENT UNDER NEW GOVERNMENT WOULD BE ELECTED BY ELECTORAL COLLEGE COMPRISING ONE REPRESENTATIVE FROM EACH DISTRICT COUNCIL TOGETHER WITH A REPRESENTATIVE OF NATIONAL HOUSE OF CHIEFS. (SUBSEQUENT PRESIDENTS WOULD APPARENTLY BE CHOSEN BY DIRECT ELECTION BASED ON UNIVERSAL ADULT SUFFRAGE.) ELECTIONS FOR EXECUTIVE POSITIONS AND FOR PARLIAMENT WOULD BE FINANCED AND REGULATED BY THE STATE. CONTESTANTS FOR PARLIAMENT (AND, WE ASSUME, PRESIDENTIAL CONTENDERS) WOULD BE GIVEN EQUAL MEDIA EXPOSURE DURING THEIR CAMPAIGNS.

6. OTHER SUGGESTIONS FROM COMMITTEE INCLUDE AN INDEPENDENT "PRESS COMMISSION" AND A "NATIONAL BUREAU
LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 04 ACCRA 07671 01 OF 02 062152Z

OF COMPLAINTS" TO ENSURE FAIR PLAY BY MEDIA; AN

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

NNN

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 01 ACCRA 07671 02 OF 02 062150Z
ACTION AF-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01
INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02
SS-15 USIA-06 DHA-05 OMB-01 TRSE-00 /075 W
----------098326 062226Z /23
R 061431Z OCT 77
FM AMEMBASSY ACCRA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 459
INFO AMEMBASSY ABIDJAN
AMEMBASSY LAGOS
AMEMBASSY LOME
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY OUAGADOUGOU

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE SECTION 2 OF 2 ACCRA 7671

INDEPENDENT JUDICIARY; A RECOMMENDATION THAT "FUNDAMENTAL HUMAN RIGHTS" BE ENSHRINED IN A NEW CONSTITUTION; A "NATIONAL DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION" TO

Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009

Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009

OVERSEE PLANNING AND IMPLEMENTATION OF ALL DEVELOPMENT
PROJECTS IN GHANA; A "CENTER FOR PUBLIC EDUCATION" TO
PROMOTE NATIONAL UNITY AND CIVIC EDUCATION; AND
PROVISIONS TO ASSURE "A VIRILE AND OUTSPOKEN PRESS."

7. COMMENT: FULL TEXT OF REPORT IS NOT YET AVAILABLE.
WHEN TEXT IS OBTAINED WE WILL POUCH COPY TO DEPT (AF/W)
AND WILL SEND IN A MORE DETAILED ANALYSIS BY AIRGRAM.
OUR PRELIMINARY REACTION IS THAT COMMITTEE HAS DONE A
CONSCIENTIOUS JOB GIVEN CONSTRAINTS UNDER WHICH IT
WAS OPERATING (I.E., TO SUPPORT THE ILL-DEFINED
CONCEPT OF UNION GOVERNMENT). REPORT SEEMS TO MAKE A
SERIOUS STAB AT LAYING DOWN FRAMEWORK FOR A UNIQUE
FORM OF GOVERNMENT, DRAWING HEAVILY ON AMERICAN
CONCEPTS. THE FRAGMENTARY ACCOUNTS OF REPORT
PRESENTLY AVAILABLE LEAVE MANX KEY QUESTIONS UNANSWERED--
LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 02 ACCRA 07671 02 OF 02 062150Z

HOW WILL SYSTEM WORK WITHOUT PARTIES OR THEIR
EQUIVALENT? WILL ANYBODY ELSE BUT ACHEAMPONG HAVE A
CLEAR SHOT AT THE PRESIDENCY? WILL DISSIDENTS REALLY
FIND THE MEDIA OPEN TO THEM? WE HOPE THAT STUDY OF
TEXT ITSELF AND CONSULTATIONS WITH KNOWLEDGEABLE
GHANAIANS WILL SHED LIGHT ON THESE AND OTHER QUESTIONS.
IN THIS PROCESS WE WILL KEEP IN MIND THE FACT THAT
THE RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE REPORT ARE NOT BINDING
ON HEAD OF STATE ACHEAMPONG AND HE MAY WELL BE ABLE
TO MANIPULATE THEM TO HIS OWN ENDS. SMITH

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

NNN

Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: REPORTS, FORM OF GOVERNMENT
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 06-Oct-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1977ACCRA07671
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D770365-0687
Format: TEL
From: ACCRA
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t19771089/aaaacxtk.tel
Line Count: 202
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: ef5d8d35-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION AF
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 4
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 03-Feb-2005 12:00:00 am
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 1017873
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: REPORT RELEASED ON UNION GOVERNMENT
TAGS: PGOV, PINT, GH
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkvgwkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/ef5d8d35-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
22 May 2009
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009